

Confirm. No. 8643  
450100-04891**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A fine particle structure comprising a fine particle accumulated layer having fine particles arranged and accumulated, having provided thereon a layer comprising a molecule having a size larger than gaps among the fine particles, wherein:
  - (a) the fine particle accumulated layer is a photonic crystal layer comprising fine particles which have uniform size and are regularly arranged;
  - (b) the layer comprising a molecule having a size larger than gaps among the fine particles is a coating comprising a polymer substance having a size larger than the gaps among the fine particles; and
  - (c) the size of the gaps is [equation 1]

$$2(\sqrt{2} - 1)R$$

wherein R represents a radius of the fine particles.

2-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) A fine particle structure as claimed in claim 1 ~~claim 2~~, wherein the polymer substance comprises a chain polymer, a linear polymer or a helix polymer, and the size is a length in a major length direction of the polymer substance.
7. (Currently amended) A fine particle structure as claimed in claim 1 ~~claim 2~~, wherein the polymer substance comprises a chain polymer, a linear polymer or a helix polymer, and the size is a length in a minor length direction of the polymer substance.
8. (Currently amended) A fine particle structure as claimed in claim 1 ~~claim 2~~, wherein the polymer substance is in a coil form, and ~~the length of~~ the size is a length in a longitudinal direction of the coil.
9. (Currently amended) A fine particle structure as claimed in claim 1 ~~claim 2~~, wherein the polymer substance is in a coil form, and the size is a length in a lateral direction of the coil.

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10. (Currently amended) A fine particle structure as claimed in claim 1 ~~claim 2~~, wherein the polymer substance comprises a network polymer or a gel polymer, and the size is a size of the network in a spreading direction.
11. (Currently amended) A fine particle structure as claimed in claim 1 ~~claim 2~~, wherein the polymer substance comprises gelatin.
12. (Currently amended) An optical medium comprising a fine particle structure of claim 1 ~~comprising a fine particle accumulated layer having fine particles arranged and accumulated, having provided thereon a layer comprising a molecule having a size larger than gaps among the fine particles.~~
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Currently amended) An optical medium as claimed in claim 12, wherein the layer comprising a molecule having a size larger than gaps among the fine particles ~~molecular layer~~ is provided as a protective film of a reflective type screen.
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Previously presented) An optical medium as claimed in claim 12, wherein the optical medium is constituted as a light functional element.
17. (Previously presented) An optical medium as claimed in claim 16, wherein the molecular layer is formed as a protective film.
18. (Previously presented) An optical medium as claimed in claim 16, wherein the molecular layer is formed as a waveguide.
- 19-21. (Cancelled)
22. (Currently amended) The optical medium of claim 12 ~~claim 21~~, wherein the polymer substance comprises gelatin.